

MEETING OF
THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

A meeting of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation was held at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. DuPont Hwy., Dover, Delaware, September 18, 2013, with the following members in attendance:

Robert F. Garey, Chairman
William H. "Chip" Narvel, Jr. Secretary
Robert Emerson
Peter Martin, Forestry Council Chairman

Kevin Coyle representing Collin O'Mara, Secretary of DNREC
Ed Kee, Secretary of Agriculture
Lisa Embert representing Chip Flowers, Jr., State Treasurer

Absent: L. Allen Messick, Jr., William Vanderwende, and Theodore P. Bobola, Jr.

The following staff members were in attendance: Austin Short, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, and Chief of Planning, Howard Mesick, Milton Melendez, Cathy Mesick, and Robin West.

Others in attendance: William Denman, Esq.; and Ida Parrett and Laura Peretiatko representing Del DOT.

Chairman Garey opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

I. Current Situation Report:

Robin West informed the Board that we have a total of 1,170 farms in preservation districts totaling 163,530 acres, with a total of 754 farms under agricultural easements totaling 110,954 acres at a cost of \$198,780,209. For PDR 18, there are a total of 104 farms, comprising 10,919 acres, with a value of \$55,293,000. For the Forestland Preservation Program there are 37 Forestland Preservation Areas comprising 2,711 acres. For the Forestland Preservation Area Easements, there are a total of 9 properties, comprising 872 acres, with a value of \$1,450,804. For the Young Farmers Program there are a total of 14 Young Farmers program loans which have settled, with an easement value of \$5,083,918. For the third Young Farmers round there are eight farms, comprising 841 acres with an estimated value of \$2,450,000.

II. Young Farmers Report

Austin Short informed the Board that one application has been received for Round 4, and 3 prequalification forms are awaiting his review. Additionally, two of the eight approved applicants for Round 3 have settled and we hope to settle with the remaining applicants by October 31.

III. Monitoring Report:

Milton Melendez informed the Board that all 330 Federal parcels have been visited, and 174 of the 664 State parcels have been visited. In answer to a question by the Chairman, no properties have been found non-compliant within the last few years.

IV. Expansion Eligibility & Final Approval (Contingent Sale):

1. English Expansion of the Baxter Farms, Inc.-Lowes Crossroads District, ID#S-13-09-038B. After discussion, **Ed Kee moved to accept for eligibility/final approval, contingent upon sale, the English Expansion of the Baxter Farms, Inc.-Lowes Crossroads District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

V. Expansion Eligibility & Final Approval:

1. John Elliott Expansion of the Robert A. Short District, ID#S-13-04-019B. After discussion, **Chip Narvel moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the John Elliott Expansion of the Robert A. Short District, seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**

VI. Secretary of Agriculture's Veto:

Secretary of Agriculture Ed Kee waived the right of veto for the above Expansions.

VII. Public Comments:

No public comments were received.

VIII. Minutes:

Chairman Garey asked if there were any comments or changes to the August 14, 2013 minutes. Hearing no changes, the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes. **Robert Emerson moved to approve the August minutes, seconded by Ed Kee. Motion unanimously approved.**

IX. Financial Highlights:

Howard Mesick presented the Financial Statement for the month of August 31, 2013, informing the Foundation Board that we had, as of August 31, 2013, \$ 65,955.28 in the Foundation's interest bearing State of Delaware account. Interest income was \$8.85, and license plate monies received in August totaled \$280.00. Expenditures for the month of August totaled \$32,388.55. After discussion, **Robert Emerson moved to accept the August financial statement as presented, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

X. Executive Session:

There was no need for an Executive Session.

XI. Other Business:

1. Dulin Brothers District, ID#K-96-08-120. DelDOT construction easement.

Ms. Ida Parrett and Ms. Laura Peretiatko were in attendance representing DelDOT. Mr. Milton Melendez presented the request, including a one page information sheet. A construction is involved on .0543 acres, the agreement between the owners (Norman and Donald Dulin) and DelDOT has been reviewed and is approved by the Foundation attorney. Ms. Ida Parrett handed out a more detailed map of the site and also explained further upon the need for this construction work on drainage pipes in the area. After discussion, **Ed Kee moved to accept the DelDOT construction easement on the Dulin Brothers District, seconded by Chip Narvel. Motion unanimously approved.**

2. FY' 13 FRPP Cooperative Agreement.

Mr. Short informed the Board that the Aglands Foundation was approved for \$4,224,590.00 from the FY'13 USDA Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP). This is the maximum amount of Federal funds that staff believes the Foundation can utilize in the upcoming round (Round 18) of easement selections. Following a discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to approve the updated FRPP/Aglands Foundation Cooperative Agreement to include \$4,224,590.00 in FY'13 funding, seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**

Secretary Kee informed the Board that at the upcoming October meeting he plans to discuss a process that could potentially utilize funding from DNREC (Open Space) and various County governments (or perhaps a nongovernment organization) to purchase easements in areas with high agricultural and environmental values. This process, if pursued, would only be considered for areas where all three entities concur (Aglands, DNREC/Open Space, and County). The process would not alter the Foundation's process for selecting easements.

XII. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Foundation the meeting adjourned at 9:09 a.m. The next meeting of the Foundation will be held on October 16, 2013 at the Delaware Department of Agriculture beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert F. Garey
Chairman